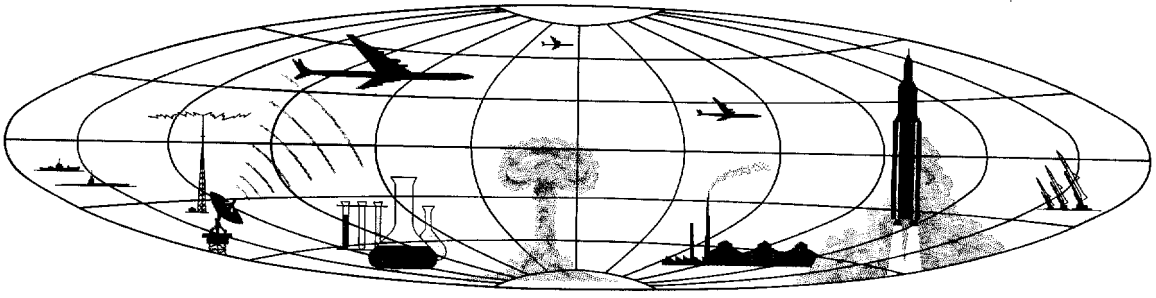
PIC/JB-1011/61
April 1961

JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

MISSILE TEST CENTER
TYURA TAM, USSR

ARMY NAVY CIA

Published and Disseminated by
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE CENTER



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Approved For Release 2001/09/01 : CIA-RDP78T04751A000300100039-0

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MISSILE TEST CENTER, TYURA TAM, USSR

The Tyura Tam Missile Test Center (45-55N 63-20E) is located in the Kyzyl-Kum Desert, about 65 miles east of the Aral Sea, along the Aralsk-Tashkent rail line. The Center conducts all the flight testing of the Soviet ICBM and space programs, and contains facilities under construction capable of training operational units in firing ICBMs. The ICBM test range extends some 3,400 miles to the northeast, where terminal range facilities have been constructed on the Kamchatka Peninsula. Extension of the range is effected through the use of instrumented ships stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

25X1D The Test Center has been covered by aerial photography [redacted]
25X1D [redacted]
25X1D Each of the [redacted] photographic missions provides evidence of progress in the development of launching facilities as well as considerable expansion of supporting facilities.

25X1D The accompanying drawing shows the location and organization of major facilities at the Test Center. Facilities present in [redacted] are
25X1D shown in black, those appearing on the [redacted] photography in red, and
25X1D new facilities present or under construction in [redacted] in green.

The Test Center encompasses about 150 square miles, exclusive of outlying range instrumentation facilities. It consists of a Range Head, with three separate launch complexes; and a Support Base, with extensive logistical and administrative support facilities. A 3,950-foot airfield is located in the Support Base.

Launch Complex "A", 15 miles north of the Support Base, was the first operational launching complex at Tyura Tam. Construction of this Complex probably began in early or mid-1955 and was completed by the
25X1D time of the [redacted] photography. The Complex contains a massive concrete rail-served launching platform 135 feet square located at the lip of a pear-shaped pit which is 880 feet long, 550 feet wide [redacted]
25X1D The long axis of the pit is oriented east-west. On the basis of present
25X1D [redacted] evidence, it is concluded that from this single launch point the Soviets have launched all their ICBMs and
25X1D space vehicles [redacted] The launch area appears capable of conducting hold-down static engine firings. Launch

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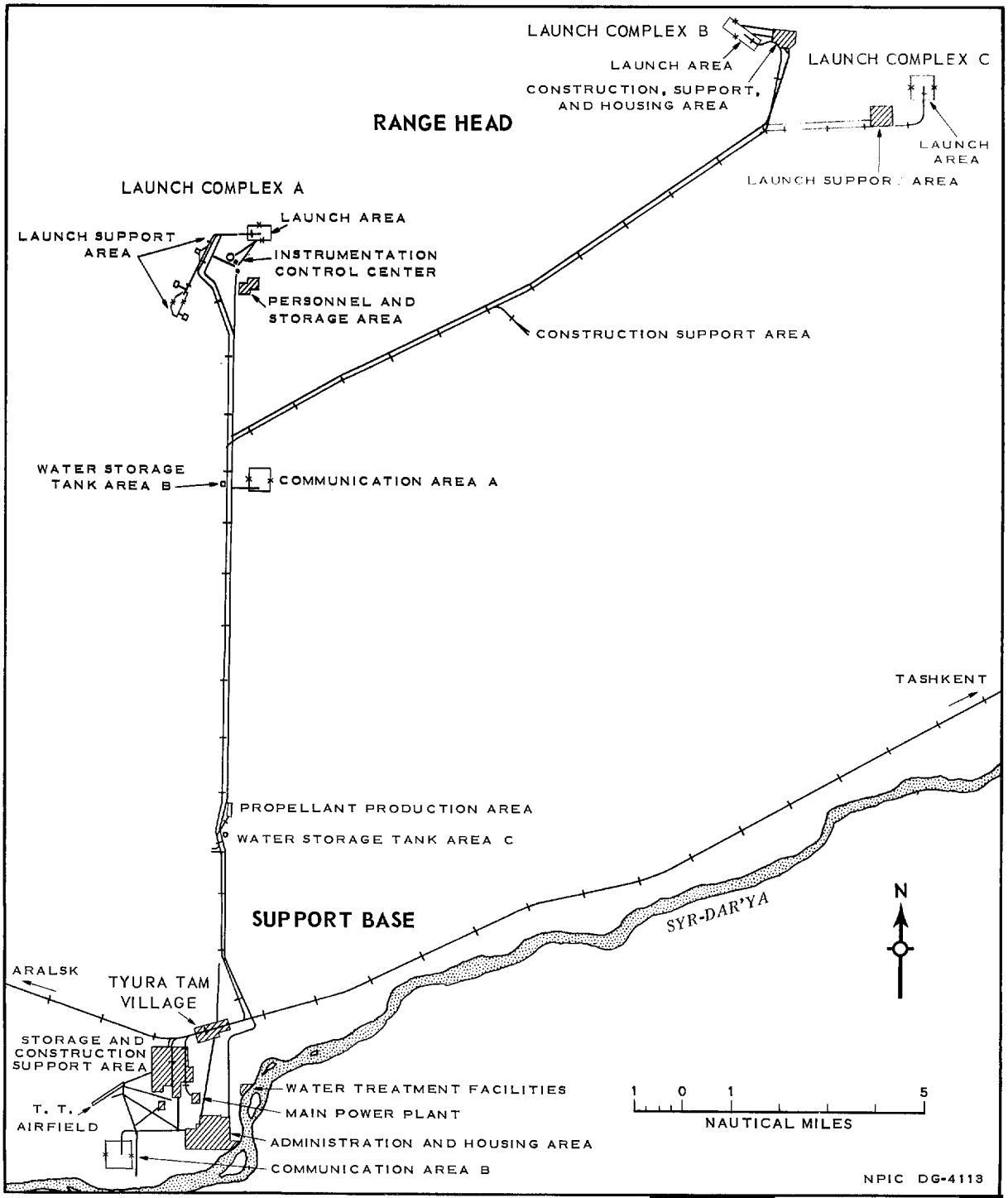

TYURA TAM MISSILE TEST CENTER. Black denotes facilities present in [redacted] *red, those present in* [redacted] *and green, those added by* [redacted]

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operations are conducted from a buried control bunker 650 feet north of the launching platform.

The launch support area at Launch Complex "A" contains two large industrial-type buildings for the final assembly and checkout of missiles and upper staging, as well as laboratory facilities, an instrumentation control center, and a personnel and housing area. A ring of instrumentation sites surrounds the Launch Complex. Other sites, up to 70 miles from the complex, provide additional Range Head instrumentation.

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Launch Complex "B", observed on [redacted] photography, was then about 50 percent complete. It appears similar to Launch Complex "A" in many respects. When completed, it will also contain a massive rail-served launching structure, a large pit, and a buried control bunker.

The major differences between Launch Complexes "A" and "B" are that whereas Complex "A" has two assembly and checkout facilities, Complex "B" has only one, and Complex "B" has no instrumentation associated with it. However, inasmuch as Complex "B" presumably performs many of the same functions as Complex "A", it would be reasonable to assume that instrumentation associated with Complex "A" could also serve Complex "B". While the launch area at Complex "A" is oriented east-west, the launch area at Complex "B" is oriented generally northwest-southeast.

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Construction estimates indicate that Launch Complex "B" required about 24 months to complete and was probably operational by [redacted]

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On the [redacted] photography, the Test Center was largely cloud-covered; the launch areas of both Launch Complexes "A" and "B" were completely obscured by clouds. However, breaks in the clouds 4 miles east of Launch Complex "B" revealed a highly significant new item: Launch Complex "C", a facility radically different from either Launch Complex "A" or "B". When it is completed (estimated to be early in [redacted] the Complex will contain two road-served soft launch pads and a rail-served assembly and checkout facility. The Complex appears to have no capability for static engine testing or launching of space vehicles. It will probably serve a twofold mission: initially as a prototype operational site, and eventually as a troop-training facility.

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25X1D The Terminal Range Facilities on the Kamchatka Peninsula were photographed in [redacted]. They include a pattern of interferometer-type instrumentation sites capable of providing accurate terminal range measurement data on re-entry vehicles, and also possibly capable of providing re-entry data in support of the Soviet antimissile program.

All the facilities at the Tyura Tam Missile Test Center and the Terminal Range Facilities are currently the subject of a detailed photo-analysis and will be described in full in a comprehensive report planned for later publication.

REFERENCES

25X1D [redacted]

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CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0132-14A, 1st ed, May 59 (S)
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SECRET

NOFORN [redacted]

(DOWNGRADING PROHIBITED)

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